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# SCIENCE

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## CONTENTS

<i>The American Association for the Advancement of Science:</i> —	
<i>The Function and Test of Definition and Method in Psychology:</i> PROFESSOR W. B. PILLSBURY .....	371
<i>Mrs. Henry Draper:</i> ANNIE J. CANNON ....	380
<i>A New Glacial Park:</i> DR. JOHN M. CLARKE. 382	
<i>The United States Geological Survey at the Panama Exposition</i> .....	383
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	384
<i>University and Educational News</i> .....	387
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:</i> —	
<i>Headship and Organization of Clinical Departments of First-class Medical Schools:</i> DR. ARTHUR DEAN BEVAN. <i>Soil Nitrates:</i> K. F. KELLERMAN .....	388
<i>Scientific Books:</i> —	
<i>Williston on the Water Reptiles of the Past and Present:</i> PROFESSOR RICHARD S. LULL. <i>Festschrift Max Bauer zum siebzigsten Geburstag gewidmet:</i> DR. GEORGE F. KUNZ. <i>Gage on Optic Projection:</i> DR. P. G. NUTTING .....	391
<i>The Meteorology of Adelie Land, Antarctica:</i> GENERAL A. W. GREELY .....	395
<i>Report of the Committee of the American Association of Anatomists on Premedical Work in Biology:</i> PROFESSOR HENRY MCE. KNOWER .....	397
<i>Special Articles:</i> —	
<i>Sex Determination and Sex Control in Guinea-pigs:</i> DR. GEORGE PAPANICOLAOU ..	401
<i>The American Association for the Advancement of Science:</i> —	
<i>Section C:</i> DR. JOHN JOHNSTON .....	404
<i>The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology; The American Society of Biological Chemists:</i> DR. P. A. SHAFFER. 405	

## THE FUNCTION AND TEST OF DEFINITION AND METHOD IN PSYCHOLOGY<sup>1</sup>

AMID all of the discussion current in the last few years among psychologists the unprejudiced outside observer might think that we were a body of men professing to develop and teach a science who did not know what that science was to deal with and without any idea or with too many ideas as to the methods that should be followed in undertaking to develop our knowledge of the unknown or undetermined subject-matter. Psychology is at once the science of mind, the science of consciousness, the science of experience, the science of behavior. Psychology must be studied only by careful watching of the processes of the individual, by the individual himself; one who does not proceed in this way is no psychologist, no matter how valuable his work may be as physiology or biology or sociology. On the other hand, we are assured by just as devoted and well-recognized psychologists that psychology must deal only with the responses of the individual, with what can be seen from the outside, and that what the first man deals with really has no existence, or at best is entirely irrelevant to the responses, to anything that is of scientific interest. If we are to be taken at our own valuation we are either altogether unfit to carry on the task we have set ourselves or entirely unprepared for it.

As a matter of fact I presume this comes from the youth of the science, at least from taking a definition and formal statements

<sup>1</sup> Address of the Vice-president and Chairman of Section H—Anthropology and Psychology, Philadelphia, December 30, 1914.